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Maryland MCAP

English Language Arts Practice Tests

for Grade 3

A Complete Guide to Building Math Mastery and Excelling on the Test



- Real Practice. Real Results.
- Small Steps, Big Gains!
- Practice Smart. Score Higher:
- Detailed Explanations
- Practice
- Master
- Achieve

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Grade 3 · Maryland · MCAP

6 Maryland Grade 3
English Language Arts (ELA)
Practice Tests

Full-Length Practice for MCAP Preparation
and Academic Confidence

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Grade 3 English

English Language

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Questions: Varies by section **Duration:** No time limit

Important Test Information

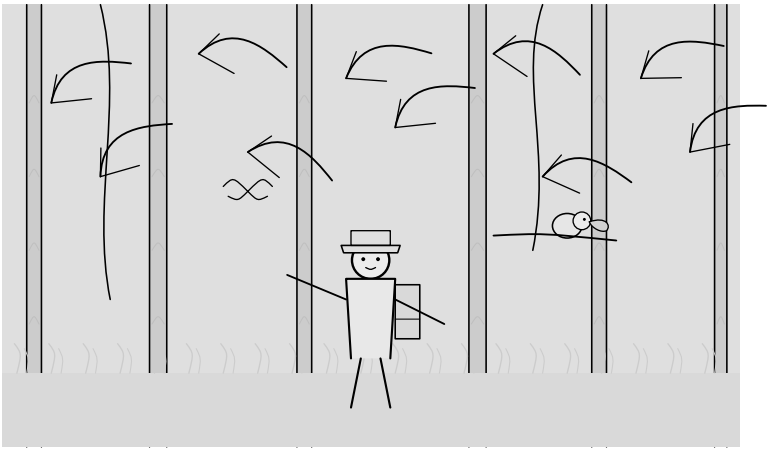
These practice items follow the style of third-grade English Language assessments. Formats can vary by section: you may see reading passages and graphics, different kinds of questions, or other tasks—follow the instructions on each page.

Test-Taking Tips:

- Read each question and every answer choice before you decide.
- Look back at the reading material or graphic when a question is based on them.
- Work carefully—there is no time limit on these practice tests, so use the time you need.

Remember: Take your time, stay calm, and do your best. You've prepared well for this practice—you've got this!

Read the passage and the illustration below. Then answer questions 1–8.



A young explorer discovers the wonders of the rainforest

Journey Into the Rainforest

1 Step inside a tropical rainforest and you step into another world. The air is thick and warm, heavy with the smell of wet earth and blossoming flowers. Sounds surround you from every direction—the screech of parrots, the chorus of insects, the drip of water from leaf to leaf. Rainforests cover only about six percent of Earth's land surface, yet they are home to more than half of the world's animal and plant species. Scientists call them "the lungs of the planet," and for good reason.

Layers of Life

2 A tropical rainforest is organized into four distinct layers, and each one is a world of its own. The *emergent layer* sits at the very top, where the tallest trees poke above the canopy, sometimes reaching 200 feet. Eagles and monkeys live here, riding the wind above the forest. Below that is the *canopy*—a dense roof of interlocking branches and leaves that blocks most sunlight from reaching lower levels. About 90 percent of rainforest animals live in the canopy. Lower still is the *understory*, where plants grow slowly in the dim light, and jaguars and tree frogs make their homes. Finally, the *forest floor* is nearly dark, covered in fallen leaves and roots, where fungi, ants, and the giant anteater search for food.

Extraordinary Creatures

3 Rainforests burst with life that seems almost unbelievable. A single tree can host more than four hundred species of insects. The Amazon River, which flows through the South American rainforest, contains more species of fish than any river on Earth. Poison dart frogs, no larger than a human thumbnail, carry enough toxin to be dangerous to a large predator. The blue morpho butterfly, with wings as wide as a hand, shimmers like a flying jewel through the dim understory light.

Why Rainforests Matter

4 Rainforests are called the "lungs of the planet" because their billions of trees absorb enormous amounts of carbon dioxide and release oxygen, helping regulate Earth's climate. They also play a critical role in the water cycle: trees absorb rain and release water vapor into the air, which eventually forms clouds and falls again as rain over a wide area. Many medicines used today were discovered in rainforest plants. Scientists estimate that fewer than one percent of rainforest plants have been tested for potential medicines.



Epic gags?
Scan for seas.
Scan Me

Use the story "The Championship Game" to answer this question.

13) Why is paragraph 5 ("For a fraction of a second, the whole world held its breath") important to the plot?

(A) It reveals that the referee has stopped the game temporarily.
(B) It shows that Zara was confused about whether she had kicked the ball.
(C) It creates a moment of suspense between the kick and the result that makes the goal more impactful when it comes.
(D) It explains why the crowd went quiet because they did not like the team.

Use the story "The Championship Game" to answer this question.

14) In paragraph 4, the author writes that Zara's body "took over the way it does when you've done something ten thousand times." What does this reveal about Zara?

(A) Zara has trained so extensively that her skills have become automatic and deeply reliable under pressure.
(B) Zara succeeded by accident because she was not thinking about the kick.
(C) Zara does not care about winning and simply let her body act without effort.
(D) Zara has natural gifts that she was born with and did not have to work for.

Read the poem. Then answer questions 15–16.

Before the Whistle

Before the whistle, every fear
lives in my chest like something real—
my knees are loose, my stomach turns,
I wonder what I'll feel

when I have run my whole heart out
and given everything inside,
and still the ball went somewhere wrong
despite how hard I tried.

But then the whistle blows. The world
becomes a field, a ball, my feet.
I forget the fear completely—
all I feel is fleet.

And whether I am star or shadow
on that field today,
the person I'll be proud of
is the one who chose to play.

So play. And if you stumble, good.
The stumble is the teacher.
Every fall brings you a step
closer to the bleacher.

15) What does the word *fleet* most likely mean in line 12?

(A) nervous and unsure
(B) tired and heavy
(C) fast and free-moving
(D) strong and powerful

Use the poem "Before the Whistle" to answer this question.

16) In lines 13–16, the speaker says they will be proud of "the one who chose to play." What does the speaker most likely mean?

(A) The decision to play at all— to show up despite fear—is itself an achievement worth being proud of.
(B) The speaker will only feel proud if they are the best player on the field.
(C) The speaker is angry that they have to play and is looking for an excuse to leave.
(D) The speaker will feel proud only if their team wins the game.

Use the poem "Before the Whistle" to answer this question.

17) Which sentence **best** describes how the speaker's feelings **change** from before the game starts to during the game?

(A) Before the whistle the speaker is overwhelmed by fear and worry about failing; once play begins, fear fades and the speaker feels focused, quick, and free on the field.
(B) The speaker never notices any change because the poem does not mention feelings.
(C) The speaker feels relaxed before the whistle and panicked only after the game ends.
(D) The speaker feels bored before the game and angry during it.

Conflict maps? Scan to revise. Scan Me